THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Assam Pollution Control Board (APCB), the presence of fluoride in ground water has been studied under a project in which ground water samples were collected and tested for fluoride. A total number of 449 habitations have been detected to be fluoride affected. The district wise break-up of these habitations are (i) Nagaon-358, (ii) Karbi-Anglong-48, (iii) Kamrup-36, (iv) Golaghat-4 and (v) Karimganj-3

(c) to (e) As informed by the Assam Public Health Engineering Department (APHED), alternative schemes through Surface Piped Water Supply Scheme (SPWSS) and Ring Well Water Supply Scheme (RWWSS) have been formulated to provide pure and potable water in the above mentioned areas. The following piped water supply schemes are also being taken by the APHED for mitigation of fluoride by installation of Flouride Removal Unit/Alternative Source.

District	Name of Scheme
Nagaon	Urdhagaon Gravity Flow Piped Water Supply Scheme (PWSS) Nilbagan PWSS Kanchanjuri PWSS Dijuvalley PWSS
Karbi Anglong	Longnit PWSS Ardeng Ingti PWSS
Kamrup	Mathgharia No. 1 PWSS

Wildlife Protection Act

1904. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wildlife Protection Act is being amended to make provision for forest tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under Section 28 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Chief Wildlife Warden of State/UT Governments are already empowered for grant of permission for tourism.

Green house gases

†1905. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that emission of green house gases is causing change in climate and increase in temperature;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Gangotri Glacier is shrinking every year due to increase in temperature; and

(c) whether Government would adopt necessary measures in collaboration with the other developed nations to check the emission of green house gases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) increasing concentrations of green house gases in the atmosphere are responsible for increase in average surface air temperature near the earth's surface and act as a driver of Climate Change including climate system.

(b) As per Geological Survey of India, the Gangotri glacier is shrinking every year with variable rate of recession as has been the case with other Himalayan glaciers. Recession of glaciers is a complex phenomenon and may result due to several factors including rise in temperature, amount and time of snowfall in the catchments area, *etc.* Thus, it is not possible to specify the role played by rise in temperature in this shrinkage. GSI has monitored Gangotri glacier between 1935 and 1996. The average rate of retreat has been 18.80 m per year. Also the studies carried out by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, funded projects on Gangotri glacier revealed that the glacier is receding at the rate of 17.15 m/year during 1971 to 2004.

(c) The Government of India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol. The Government of India is pro actively participating in Climate Change negotiations both under the Convention and its Protocol alongwith Developed Countries. Further India is actively participating in the Clean Development Mechanism(CDM), whereby project proponents from India sell Certified Emission Reduction certificates to Developed Countries and mitigate their risks, while at the same time contributing to sustainable development of the country. As on date, 375 projects from India have been registered by the Executive Board of CDM.

Assessment on the impact of global warming

1906. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made assessment on the impact of global warming in India as being forecasted by various experts and world bodies including United Nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and response of Government in this regard;

(c) the strategy being finalized for combating the ill effect of the climate change; and

(d) the reasons for delay in responding to the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As a part of the Initial National Communication of India to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), studies in regard to